

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 27-31 and 33 have been amended, claims 1-4, 10-13, 16-17, and 19 have been canceled, and claim 34 has been added. Claims 5-9, 14-15, 18, and 20-26 were canceled by a previous Amendment dated January 19, 2006.

Claims 27-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,858,202 (Niemiec et al.). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 27 recites a liquid laundry detergent composition comprising five components: at least one detergent ingredient selected from a group consisting of anionic surfactants, zwitterionic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, and mixtures thereof; a coacervate phase forming cationic polymer selected from guar gums; one or more fabric care ingredients selected from linear cationic silicone block copolymers comprising at least one non-fabric substantive loop and at least one fabric substantive hook; one or more enzymes; and a liquid carrier. The composition comprises the coacervate phase forming cationic polymer selected from guar gums in an amount of from 0.05% to 0.2% by weight of the composition. Further, the fabric substantive hook is located in the backbone of the linear copolymers.

The present specification describes the fabric substantive hook as located in the "backbone" of the "linear" copolymer, in contradistinction from structures in which the quaternary nitrogen is incorporated into a moiety or moieties which form a "pendant" or "dangling" structure off the "backbone". (page 12, lines 9-13).

Niemiec does not teach or suggest the claimed composition. Rather, Niemiec teaches a composition "suitable for use in shampoos, baths, and shower gels." (Abstract). Niemiec does not appear to disclose a cationic silicone block copolymer as presently claimed wherein the fabric substantive hook is located in the backbone of the linear polymer. In fact, Niemiec suggests "a cationic moiety, e.g. trimonium chloride[,]" which inherently must be a pendant structure extending from a silicone molecule and, as such, dangling off of the backbone of the copolymer. (See col. 5, structure I and lines 6-29). Therefore, Niemiec does not disclose the location of a fabric substantive hook located in the backbone of the linear copolymer, as is recited in claim 27 and the present specification. Consequently, in view of this deficiency, Niemiec does not support a rejection of claims 27-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

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To establish prima facie obviousness of the claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art, *In re Royka*, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). Not only do Applicants find no teaching, suggestion, or reference by Niemiec relating to a composition comprising at least one fabric substantive hook located in the backbone of the linear copolymer, Applicants find no teaching, suggestion, or reference in this reference for modifying the disclosure therein to arrive at the claimed composition. In view of this deficiency, Niemiec does not support a rejection of claims 27-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103. It is therefore submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants indicate that this Amendment is submitted with the appropriate fees for both a Request for Continued Examination and a Request for a One Month Extension of Time. Therefore, Applicants request both continued examination of the Application and a one month extension of time in which to respond.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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